



WASHINGTON STATE PARKS

parks.wa.gov



Lake Wenatchee State Park

WILD + WELCOMING

A visit to a state park is so much more than a breath of fresh air. Nature is a place of lifelong learning — and time spent in it is good for both physical and mental health. State parks are home to endangered species and unique ecosystems. We’re also a major contributor to the state’s economy. Washington State Parks generate more than \$1.2 billion in spending statewide, \$165 million in state and local tax revenue, and support nearly 15,000 jobs in communities across Washington.

124
PARKS

40M+
ANNUAL VISITS

120K
ACRES

1,300
MILES OF TRAILS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS + CHALLENGES

1. More projects, more efficiency

The 2023-25 budget provided the largest capital projects budget in Parks’ history. Despite this, we’re anticipated to reduce reappropriation by 10-20% this biennium.

2. Strides and challenges in accessibility

We have made strides to make Parks more accessible for visitors. The recent settlement with the USDOJ is an opportunity to further those improvements, but deadlines upcoming will require funding to implement.

3. Revenue and rigid funding

We earn 65% of our own revenue, largely through Discover Pass, camping and other fees. But limitations in fund flexibility create significant challenges. This includes Discover Pass fees, which have never been adjusted.

“This is why I live here - to be able to live in a big city yet be immersed in nature within a 30 minute drive.”

PARK VISITOR, APRIL 2024



Larrabee State Park

DID YOU KNOW?

- State Parks manages 800+ historic buildings — more than any other state agency.
- Our parks are home to the majority of Washington’s remaining lowland old growth forests and some of the only known occurrences of many rare plant communities.
- State Parks has fewer acres but more visitors than any other state-managed lands agency.